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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

The Polish population offers a passive resistance which is continuously on the increase. For the past three years evidence of it has become visible to the whole world. The communication system grows from bad to worse. The transport system is disorganized. Railroads operate inefficiently. Government officials and employees dissatisfied with their economic situation do only what they are forced to do and only under the pressure of threats, fines, etc. Unfortunately, this situation leads to bad consequences for the population as a whole, for instance, since the teachers of elementary and high schools hate the Communist regime they believe they can best oppose it by poorly training their students, in other words, teaching them very little. Therefore, students graduated from Lycees (secondary schools) are very poorly prepared to enter the colleges and consequently lower their level of educational standards. Employees of all types working in state-operated enterprises, whether in town or village, try to do as little as possible. Mine workers, steel and iron workers and those working in other plants do not reach the basic norms established by the Communist Party and by managers of state enterprises. It is an open secret that for the past two years workers have been far from approaching 100% of the production plan. The situation in the metallurgical and mining industry of Upper Silesia became so critical that Bierut himself was forced to make his appearance in this area in December 1952 in order to exhort the workers to accelerate production. He also cursed and threatened the recalcitrant element of the workers, calling them bums, saboteurs, enemies of the people, etc. At the most important coal mines the execution of the 1952 plan resulted in approximately 85% production, if one wants to believe the official data published in the Communist press. In spite of severe recriminations a strong whispering campaign has become rampant all over the country and among every segment of the population. I may well say that hatred towards the oppressor and hatred towards his Polish agents increased considerably during the past year 1953. Hypocrisy and lies pervade everything. One hides his feelings and waits for the day of liberation.

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"Sluzba Polsee" (Service to Poland) is the organization which may be considered as the instrument providing pre-military training. Young men 17 years old are drafted for a period of three to six months to work on public works projects of all types. Young men attending school perform this service in two stages. These young men wear military uniforms and receive military training for two or three hours a day. The "League of Soldiers Friends" (LFZ) which has been carrying on extensive propaganda for the past two years, enjoys no popularity whatever. Only those who are really forced to do so join it. In general and this must be said with special emphasis, it is true that the Polish people's attitude towards their soldiers does not lack some tragic aspects. In one aspect the people feel these soldiers are all good Polish boys who should be met with sympathy and understanding but on the other hand the entire Polish army is an army serving Soviet interests and is, therefore, looked upon with indifference and even contempt. Another matter may be mentioned here. The yearly contingent of recruits is approximately threetimes as large as the yearly quota provided for new enlistees. Of three soldiers found eligible for military service, two are returned home and classed supernumeraries. . . Selected for military service are mainly the sons of workers and poor peasants, members of the ZMP, sons of Communist Party members, etc.

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Two years ago everybody had to submit requests in order to obtain a certificate of identity. On this occasion people were required also to submit birth certificates, employment certificates, marriage certificates, divorce certificates, etc. They were also required to fill out a lengthy questionnaire. Subsequently registration cards were issued to them promptly. For the past 12 months a fairly large number of persons received in exchange for these registration cards new identity certificates. These certificates contain about 20 pages. For the time being people do not attach too much importance to these identity certificates which, after all, do not reveal particular information except personal data and the employer's authentication but the average people fear that these documents, according to their numbers, will be graded by being divided into different categories and that sooner or later their holders will find their freedom of travel within the country more or less curtailed.

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However, the issue of the new Identity Certificates was not completed. In every town and community special offices were set up to handle this matter. The correct name of these documents is "Dowod Osobisty", which means personal certificate. In general terms, however, they are frequently called "passports for the interior", as they are called also in the USSR.

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